

help that country to found a just and representative government as promised. Our goal is a swift transition to Iraqi control of their own affairs. People of Iraq will be secure, and the people of Iraq will run their own country.

At present, 230,000 Americans are serving inside or near Iraq. Our whole Nation, especially their families, recognizes that our people in uniform face continuing danger. We appreciate their service under difficult circumstances and their willingness to fight for American security and Iraqi freedom. As Commander in Chief, I assure them, we will stay on the offensive against the enemy. And all who attack our troops will be met with direct and decisive force.

As America fights our war against terror, we will continue to depend on the skill and the courage of our volunteer military. In these last 22 months, our Armed Forces have been tested and tested again. In every case, in every mission, America's service

men and women have brought credit to the uniform, to our flag, and to our country. We have needed you, and you have never let us down.

I want to thank you for keeping your pledge of duty to America and thank you for renewing that demanding pledge today.

And now, General Myers will administer the oath of enlistment in the Armed Forces of the United States. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; senior Al Qaida associates Abu Bakr Al Azdi and Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Al Qaida operational planner and fundraiser Yousif Salih Fahad Al-Ayeeri, also known as "Swift Sword," who was killed on May 31; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Peacekeeping Operations *July 1, 2003*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I transmit herewith the 2002 Annual Report to the Congress on Peacekeeping, prepared by my Administration, consistent with section 4 of the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79-264), as amended.

United Nations and other peacekeeping operations around the world helped the United States protect our interests, and ensured that other nations shared with us the burdens, risks, and costs of maintaining international stability. In 2002, my Administration worked closely with the United Nations and key member states to promote sound peacekeeping policies, realistic mandates, and appropriately sized missions.

I will continue to work with the Congress to ensure that peacekeeping, under the

right circumstances, remains a viable option for maintaining international peace and security.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services, Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations, C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations, and Duncan Hunter, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services.